



PRESS RELEASE

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For Information Contact Public Affairs

SANDY RAYNOR

Telephone: (602) 514-7625

Cell: (602) 525-2681

FEDERAL PROSECUTORS FROM ARIZONA RECEIVE NATIONAL RECOGNITION FROM JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

PHOENIX - Four Assistant U.S. Attorneys (AUSAs) from the District of Arizona were recognized today by Attorney General John Ashcroft in a ceremony in Washington, D.C. for distinguished service in the performance of their duties. AUSAs Vincent Kirby, Kurt Altman, Steven Logan and Danny Roetzal were honored during the 21st annual Executive Office for the United States Attorneys Director's Awards Ceremony held by the Department of Justice at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C.

The four are among 224 nationwide award recipients receiving recognition for their excellence in litigation handled by U.S. Attorney's Offices and the Department of Justice. Recipients included AUSAs, law enforcement agents and investigators, litigation and information technology support personnel, victim/witness advocates, managers and supervisors as well as others who have made outstanding contributions in representing the United States' interests in litigation matters.

Vincent Kirby and Kurt Altman of the Phoenix office were recognized for their outstanding prosecution of defendants Lezmond Mitchell, Jason Kinlicheenie, Johnnie Orsinger and Gregory Nakai for First Degree Murder, Carjacking, Kidnapping, and Armed Robbery. This case involved a gruesome crime spree that resulted in the death of a nine-year-old female and her grandmother. In addition to their contribution to the investigation and prosecution of the matter, the pair provided extraordinary assistance to the surviving victims.

Steven Logan of the Phoenix office is being recognized for his work in prosecuting Mark

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David Brannon, a drug dealer who attempted to have Assistant Attorney General Billie Rosen killed through a hired assassin. The murder attempt was unsuccessful, but Billie Rosen's brother was seriously wounded in the attempt. Brannon also conspired to have Sheldon Sherman, his former attorney, killed. Brannon was subsequently sentenced to 60 years in prison. On a separate note, Steve recently returned from deployment to Iraq where he spent six months in Fallujah working as a JAG officer with his Marine Corps Reserve unit prosecuting and defending soldiers charged with crimes.

Danny Roetzal, now of the Tucson office, is being recognized for his work while assigned as Special Assistant U.S. Attorney (SAUSA) on loan from the Department of Justice Tax Division to the Southern District of California. SAUSA Dan Roetzel and another AUSA from San Diego were recognized for their exemplary performance in investigating, prosecuting and convicting more than 30 defendants during a four-year investigation of a major telemarketing organization in Southern California that defrauded more than 3,000 victims. The scheme caused cumulative losses of more than \$49 million through the sale of unregistered, "high-tech," telecommunications-related securities. Dan and his partner in San Diego handled more than 30 pre-trial motion hearings and presented evidence in a 21-week trial. The lead defendant, Marc David Levine, was sentenced in June 2003 to 292 months in custody and ordered to pay \$49,050,378 in restitution.

"These awards recognize the impressive achievements of four of the nation's finest public servants," said Paul Charlton, U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona. "They are prosecutors whose hard work makes our nation safer and our system of justice stronger."

The Executive Office for United States Attorneys provides oversight, general executive assistance and direction to the 94 United States Attorneys' Offices around the country.

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